



Contact: Bernice Cage
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC ANNOUNCES FORECLOSURE COUNSELING AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE TO FRANKLIN COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

(Columbus-October 2, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) in partnership with Franklin County is offering foreclosure counseling along with mortgage assistance to qualified homeowners who are struggling to make their mortgage payments. MORPC is administering funds from Franklin County to help prevent foreclosure and provide mortgage assistance to qualified homeowners that live in Franklin County but *outside* the city limits of Columbus. Depending on income, the homeowner may receive up to \$3,000 along with one-on-one counseling.

The loss of a job, divorce, medical expenses and other life-altering occurrences can happen to anyone, causing them to fall behind in loan payments. Because of the above reasons, and many not mentioned, the number of foreclosures continues to rise in Ohio.

"I'm so grateful! I was struggling to pay my bills on time every month. MORPC counselors helped me create a budget and assist me in bringing my mortgage current. I was headed toward either walking away from my home or foreclosure," states C. Sutton, a customer of the program.

"We are pleased to partner with the Franklin County Commissioners to offer a way to help families avoid losing their homes. Along with counseling, mortgage assistance is a tool to help people keep their homes and provide a plan for long term stability," states Kathy Werkmeister, MORPC Director of Housing and Community Services.

For more information on MORPC Homeownership Programs, please call 614-233-4177 or visit www.morpc.org/housing.

MORPC is an approved Housing Counseling Agency through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Columbus. MORPC offers free default and foreclosure counseling, pre and post-purchase and one-on-one credit counseling. MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

-30-

Working to Build a Better Region

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org